

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/765,378

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

By the present Amendment, Applicant proposes to amend claim 1.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyashita (US 5,397,883) in view of Ohno et al. (US 5,424,523) and Nakajima (US 5,408,531). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as set forth below.

Applicant submits that the applied references fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 1, as amended herein. In particular, the references do not teach or suggest the limitation of the two demodulated data being obtained with a single movement of the magnetic card relative to the magnetic heads.

The Examiner admits that the primary reference Miyashita does not teach or suggest reading a ticket from multiple reading heads from the same side. Thus, the Examiner cites Ohno et al. as disclosing this limitation. However, even if the Ohno et al. reference is interpreted to disclose reading a ticket from multiple reading heads from the same side, Ohno et al. still fail to disclose the two demodulated data being obtained with a single movement of the magnetic card relative to the magnetic heads.

The Examiner alleges that the reading magnetic heads 11, 17a, 17b, and 19 are arranged on one side and the reading magnetic heads 12, 18a, 18b, and 20 are arranged on the other side. However, as disclosed in column 6, lines 22-30, the reading magnetic heads require two passes of the commutation ticket 2 past the magnetic heads for the magnetic heads to read the encoded magnetic information. More specifically, read head 11 reads the magnetic information when the ticket is transported with the first record layer 2b downward. Then, read head 12 reads the

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magnetic information, when the ticket is transported with the first magnetic record layer 2b upward.

Likewise, as disclosed in column 7, lines 10-32, read heads 17a, 17b, 18a, 18b, 19, and 20 require two passes of the ticket past the read heads in order to read the encoded magnetic information.

Thus, Ohno et al. do not disclose or suggest two magnetic heads arranged in a direction, in which each of the magnetic heads relatively moves with respect to the magnetic card, and taking the same data from the magnetic card and obtaining two demodulated data with a single movement of the magnetic card relative to the magnetic heads, as required by independent claim 1.

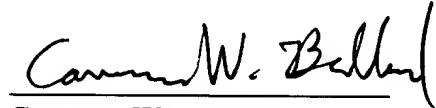
Since Miyashita and Nakajima fail to make up for this deficiency of Ohno et al., claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A magnetic card reader for making a magnetic card and at least one magnetic head to relatively move with respect to each other and for demodulating data, which is recorded on said magnetic card and obtained by said magnetic head, said magnetic card reader comprising:

two magnetic heads arranged in a direction, in which each of said magnetic heads relatively moves with respect to said magnetic card, and taking the same data from said magnetic card and obtaining two demodulated data with a single movement of the magnetic card relative to the magnetic heads;

an error detecting portion for detecting an error in at least one of the two demodulated data; and

an error correcting portion for correcting the error, which is detected by said error detecting portion, by using the other demodulated data.